

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Corner of Johnston and Second avenues
Pittsburgh
Allegheny County
Pennsylvania

HABS PA-6730
PA-6730

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

HABS No. PA-6730

LOCATION: Corner of Johnston and Second avenues, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

DATE OF
CONSTRUCTION: 1891

ARCHITECT: William Halsey Wood

PRESENT OWNER: Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh

SIGNIFICANCE: This artfully designed rustic church survives as one of the last vestiges of a well-to-do riverfront neighborhood that existed in the Hazelwood section of Pittsburgh before the massive industrialization of boroughs along the Monongahela River in the late 1800s. It is one of three buildings in the Pittsburgh area by architect William Halsey Wood.

DESCRIPTION: The church sits on Hazelwood's main street facing south with a view towards the curve in the Monongahela River. The north-south oriented main gable roof is set off by a stepped parapet and a slate-skirted bell tower with Gothic-arched louvers. The western elevation features a round side chapel with a conical slate roof and a smaller conical tower tucked between the chapel and the tower. The exterior walls are of rustic sandstone with red brick trim. Windows are primarily Gothic-arched with a single roundel on the side chapel. The interior features a richly detailed hammer-beam roof truss above an intimate sanctuary seating 150.

HISTORY: The original congregation of the Church of the Good Shepherd dates from 1870, when Hazelwood was a desirable suburb dotted with mansions and summer houses of the city's elite. The church's affluent congregation hired nationally prominent architect William Halsey Wood of Newark, New Jersey, to build its new church in 1891. Wood, described as "short-lived but brilliant," was a finalist in the competition for the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. It is assumed that he received the Good Shepherd commission after designing the first Carnegie Library in nearby Braddock in 1889.¹ The fortunes of Hazelwood were changing

¹ Wood also designed the Church of the Ascension in Pittsburgh, St. Luke's in Smethport, Pa., St. Michael's in Alabama, St. Matthew's Cathedral in Wyoming, Yaddo Castle in Saratoga Springs, New York, and First Baptist Peddie Memorial Church in Newark, New Jersey (HABS No. NJ-760). He died at age 41 in 1896, only five years after completing Good Shepherd.

during the early years of the church, however. The development of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad's shops and Jones & Laughlin Iron and Steel (later LTV) coke works turned Hazelwood into an industrial borough by the late 1800s. The church remained even as the wealthy moved out and the steel workers moved in, but the neighborhood fell into a state of decline along with the mill, falling from a peak of 13,000 residents in 1960 to 6,000 in 1998. After the LTV coke works closed in 1999, a local non-profit consortium was formed, called Almono LC, recognizing a rare opportunity to revive a waterfront brownfields site within the Pittsburgh city limits. Their long term initiative to develop a mixed-use project including research space and housing on the 178-acre site in harmony with the existing neighborhood should help revive Hazelwood and provide a new flock for the Church of the Good Shepherd.

SOURCES:

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HISTORIAN:

Christopher H. Marston, 2007

PROJECT
INFORMATION:

This short-form history was prepared to supplement photographic documentation of historic sites in western Pennsylvania. In 2005 Nicholas Traub photographed several sites for the *Buildings of Western Pennsylvania* publications, with funding from HABS/HAER/HALS. The Society of Architectural Historians cosponsored the photography project and is producing two volumes, *Buildings of Pittsburgh* and *Buildings of*

Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania as part of their Buildings of the United States series, published by the University of Virginia Press. The documentation was facilitated by Lu Donnelly, Project Director, Buildings of Western Pennsylvania, for the Heinz Architectural Center at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh. The documentation was edited and transmitted in the Washington office of HABS/HAER/HALS by Christopher H. Marston, HAER Architect.